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ITEM NO:

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DATE: 20 JUNE 1974

SUBJECT:

LAOS--NON-COMMUNISTS SCORE ONE OVER PATHET LAO

REF

25X1A2g

NON-COMMUNIST CABINET MINISTERS HAVE REBUFFED THE LATEST PATHET LAO EFFORTS TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF THE COALITION GOVE MENT FOR HANOI'S ANTI-US MANEUVERS. AT YESTERDAY'S CABINET MEE' ING, LAO COMMUNIST DEPUTY PREMIER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT PRESENTED A LETTER FROM NORTH VIETNAM PROTESTING US VIOLATIONS OF THE LASS AND VIETNAM PEACE ACCORDS AND DEMANDING AMERICAN MILITARY WITH-DRAWAL FROM THAILAND. PHOUMI STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT THE CABINET ENDORSE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE POSITION.

AFTER LENGTHY AND ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE, THE NON-COMMUNISTS--LED BY DEFENSE MINISTER SISOUK NA CHAMPASSAK AND FINANCE MINISTER NGON SANANIKONE--GAINED CABINET APPROVAL OF AN EVEN-HANDED REPLY WHILE ACKNOWLEDGMING RECEIPT OF THE LETTER, THE CABINET'S TO HANOI.

DATE:

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ARCHIVAL RECORD OF MEDERN TO AGENCY ARCHIVES,

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REPLY--WITHOUT COITING SPECIFIC COUNTRIES--STATED THAT THE COALITION WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY VIOLATIONS OF ITS TERRITORY OR ALLOW ITS SOIL TO BE USED FOR AGGRESSION AGAINST A THIRD COUNTRY. THIS RESPONSE COULD CONCEIVABLY BE USED IN THE FUTURE BY THE NON-COMMUNISTS IN THE COALITION TO PROTEST THE CONTINUING PRESENCE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN LAOS: E-2 IMPDET.A

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DATE:

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